FOURTH DAY.

Tuesday, 11th June 1940.

The House reassembled at the Jagan Mohan Palace Pavilion on Tuesday, 11th June 1940, at 12 of the clock, Mr. President (*Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., Dewan) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—*contd.*

Supply of Electric Power for Agricultural and Irrigation Purposes.

Q.—13. **Mr. N. SONNAPPA** (Chikballapur Taluk) —

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Electrical Department is obtaining an agreement with five years' guarantee whenever the raiyats require supply of electricity for agricultural and irrigation purposes ;

(*b*) whether any orders have been passed directing the department to obtain a fresh guarantee after the lapse of these five years ; if so, why could not the department require guarantee for the full period at the time of the original supply of power to the raiyats ?

A.—**The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT (Sir Harold N. Colam).**—

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, but this guarantee binds the consumer to pay power charges as per sanctioned schedule of rate and abide by the rules of the department for a period of five years initially. It was not considered desirable to make the initial period longer than five years ; however, if any consumers wish to enter into a longer term agreement, there is no reason why he should not do so. Further, all supplies of power should be under an agreement ; therefore agreements without prescribed periods are taken after the expiry of the initial agreement in order to prescribe the rates, minimum charges and conditions of supply. These continuing agreements can be terminated at the wish of the consumer.

Mr. N. SONNAPPA.—Why is it that the department is insisting on a fresh guarantee after the five years' period is over ?

The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina N. Madhava Rau).—No such guarantee is necessary.

Mr. N. SONNAPPA.—Are not the department cutting off power supply if such a guarantee is not given ?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—Such instances may be brought to notice and they will be considered.

Mr. Ballam SRINIVASA RAO.—Does not the answer to sub-section (*b*) show that such a guarantee is necessary ?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—That is only an agreement as regards the payment of the minimum charges.

Mr. N. SONNAPPA.—What is the object of the guarantee ?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—The object is that the power should not be relinquished within a period of five years. After that period, the consumption may be continued or given up.

Mr. N. SONNAPPA.—There is no question of giving up the consumption. But the question is why a minimum charge should be levied from the parties.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—That is common to all installations.

Mr. N. SONNAPPA.—In the case of wet cultivation, the agriculturists get no remission. If in addition to this they have to pay a minimum charge even when no power is consumed, it would cause undue hardship to them. So, why not the department be content with collecting the actual charges of the power consumed ?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—There must also be some return to the department for the expenditure incurred by it.

Mr. N. SONNAPPA.—But that was not indicated at first. When there is no water in the tank and the raiyats cannot carry on cultivation, there will be no occasion for using power. Even in such cases why should the department insist on the payment of the minimum?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—A copy of the agreement will be given to the member and, if after going through it, he has any questions to ask, he might do so

Mr. A. C. MUDDURACHAPPA.—In most of the towns there are transmission lines already and there is no need to run separate lines for supply of power for industrial or agricultural purposes. Why should the minimum be insisted upon in such cases? Should not the people be free to give up connections if they find that their concern is not paying?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—Such cases might be brought to notice.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—Is there any minimum fixed for heating circuits?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—No.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—If so, is it fair to insist upon the payment of minimum charges in the case of power supply for agricultural purposes?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—It is not possible to discuss all these details on the floor of the House during question time. If the member gives a memo of all the inconveniences felt by the parties, Government will examine them.

Mr. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA.—Is it possible to supply power to farms situated 20 to 30 miles away from the main power lines or is there any limit of distance fixed for power supply for agricultural purposes?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—We cannot specify the distance. Any work which yields a reasonable return to the department is likely to be sanctioned. It all depends upon how many people will take power, what quantity of power will be consumed and what the return on the capital invested will be.

Mr. T. SHADAKSHARAPPA.—Is there any idea of running a power line from Chitaldrug to Pavagada?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—Notice.

Mr. M. B. GURULINGIAH.—For sugar-cane crushing mills, power will be needed for only two months in the year and during the rest of the year, the motors will be idle and yet the minimum charges will have to be paid by the raiyats. If the motors installed for sugar-cane crushing are used for flour mills also, they could be worked throughout the year. But for sugar-cane crushing, power is charged at 9 pies per unit whereas for flour mills, it is one anna. Why not have a uniform rate for both these things?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—The member may send up his request in the matter.

Mr. M. B. GURULINGIAH.—Instead of taking the amount of guarantee at the end of the year, it is collected in the course of the year. Also the parties will have to pay the charges for actual consumption of power. Thus it amounts to a double levy. Moreover when the people make use of the power only in the last two months there is no need to pay the monthly minimum for all the twelve months. As an alternative, will the Government at least allow the parties to use power for working flour mills and charge the same rates?

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU.—I understand from the Secretary to Government, Electrical Department, that orders are under issue permitting such an adjustment.

Koratagere-Madhugiri-Sira Electrification Scheme.

Q.—17. Mr. G. RAMAIAH. (Koratagere Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) when was the electrification scheme introduced into the Mysore State, in what years and for what places was the power supplied;

(*b*) when was the Koratagere-Madhugiri-Sira Scheme prepared; what are all the schemes that were prepared